Cathedral Park • Brahe Park • Porthan Park

THE OLDEST PARKS IN TURKU
The City of Turku is founded. Turku Cathedral, which was constructed on the hill of Unikankare, is inaugurated. The bishopric is moved from Koroinen to Turku. The Dominican convent is established next to the city. The first garden of Finland, "hortus conclusus", belonged to the St Olaf Dominican convent on the hill of Kaskenmäki.

The first literal reference to Turku as a city is recorded. The oldest seal of the city dates back to the same year.

Novgorodians devastate Turku.

The mayor of Turku and the city council are mentioned for the first time.

A city hall made of stone is constructed at the end of the Great Market.

The earliest reference to the headmaster of the cathedral school of Turku is recorded. The primary task of the cathedral school was to train priests.

In 1355, the oldest guild of Turku, Guild of St Nicholas, is mentioned for the first time. The guild house was located in the Convent Quarter, south of the Great Market.

The Hospital of St George, which cared for leprosy patients, is mentioned for the first time. The Hospital was located outside the city, on the west side of Aura River.

The urban settlement expands on the eastern side of Aura River, expanding also to the west side of the river.
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The most recognized and prestigious historical parks in the downtown area are located between Turku Cathedral and the Old Great Market. The Brage Park, Porthan Park and Cathedral Park were constructed around mid-18th century according to Per Johan Gyllen’s designs. Each of the parks has gone through numerous changes, the most significant of which were due to the erection of the monuments for Porthan and Brage. The historical stratification of the parks is evident.

The oldest plantations of the parks date back to the 1860s. Through the years, whenever the park trees have been removed, they have not always been replaced or the new trees have been planted in different spots, gradually altering the overall appearance of the parks. Planting individual trees in the shadow of larger trees has meant that the selection of the habitat has mostly been based on the optimization of the light conditions. This development has threatened the survival of the designs of the parks. Additionally, the number of wood-decaying fungi has increased significantly in the recent years due to the aging and poor overall condition of the trees.

Renewal and replenishment plan to restore the glory of the parks

Something had to be done for our historical parks. A work group was founded in 2006 to draw up a renewal and replenishment plan for the trees for the purpose of protecting the future of the parks. The plan was to not only renew the trees but to restore the cultural historic and architectural aspects of the parks. The work group consisted of experts from the Green Area Corporation, the Property Corporation, the Environmental and City Planning Department, the City Planning Office and the Museum Centre. The historical and cultural historic values of the area were key themes for the work group.

Despite its extensive history, the area provides a public, everyday setting for the city dwellers. The Proclamation of Christmas Peace and the recent Medieval Market events gather thousands of visitors. The parks of the Old Great Market are classified as representative recreation areas, which require daily care. The management and renewal of these parks is based on maintaining a high-quality environment while maintaining the cultural historic and aesthetic values of the areas. The project had to also deal with the inevitable process of renewing trees. Old trees were not cut down inconsiderately. Overall, 20 trees were cut down while 69 new trees were planted.

The parks of the Great Market are part of the Cultural Capital Park in 2011. The tree renewal strategy was among the application criteria for designating Turku as the European City of the Trees 2011. Each generation has its own specific landscape. We believe we have done our share for protecting this landscape.

On behalf of the work group,

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Trees are an essential part of our cityscape. Trees and parks are very important to the city dwellers. Turku’s long history is closely entwined with its parks. Throughout history, discussions related to parks have often been emotionally charged, which is all well and good. One of the challenges posed by parks is that they are constantly living and evolving organisms that cannot be turned into museums. On the other hand, this is part of their attraction.

Historical parks have evolved from their original appearance.

The park promenade is created at the Kapittel spring pavilion.

The winds of history careess the treescape.
The large, green oasis consisting of three parks between the Aura River, the Great Old Square and the Turku Cathedral is the first planned urban recreational area that has been managed through public funding.

The park literally rose from the ashes into a place that only a few years before had been a densely populated city centre with narrow streets and two to three-storied stone buildings. The town plan was redone completely after the Great Fire of 1827. The most essential concept of the new planning was fire safety, which resulted in a spacious city populated city centre with narrow streets and 2 to 3-story stone buildings. The western part of Nicholas Square in 1854. The tent roof of the pavilion built in 1849 can be seen in the middle, and the portico built in 1836, serving as a fishing harbour for the market trade, can be seen in the foreground. The former Town Hall that was located at the end of the Old Great Market was still being used as a residential building and the town hall was located in the adjacent building (middle of the image). The adjacent Old Court House was transformed into a school after the Great Fire, and in the 1870s, the school was extended to the house that was restored after the fire for the merchant Tygg. The buildings and constructions were designed by Gylch. Only the Observatorio Vartiovuorenmäki and the edifice of the school building were designed by Engström. Image by TMK.

Nicholas Square was divided into parks and paved pathways according to City Architect P.J. Gylch's designs in 1835. Image by TKA.

The western part had already been remodelled in late 1840s, when a mineral water kiosk was constructed in the middle of the park. Pinselfi is already in its current location. Its former location was the central square, which became the location of Parish’s statue in the following year. Image by TMK.

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The Parks of NICHOLAS SQUARE

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The Great Fire of 1827

The three parks of Nicholas Square were divided a license to sell spirits. In 1876, Pinella was granted for the café. The restaurant, which was later for the refreshment of the citizens.

Public recreational areas were built in the 19th century for the purpose of cosiness, recreation and merrymaking. In June of 1849, a "tasteful pavilion with an elegant decor" built by Niilo Henrik Pinellö opened its doors on the western side of Nicholas Square serving "gentlemen and elegant ladies" coffee, tea and mineral water. The menu included items, such as "Lemonad de Gazeus" and fresh fruit pastries "à la Glace". However, in 1864 the pavilion, which had grown popular among businessmen and culture circles, had to move out of the way of the statue of Henrik Gabriel Porthan. This also provided much needed extra space for the café. The restaurant, which was later named Pinella, was extended twice, first in 1863 according to the designs of District Architect Th. P. Chiewitz and later in 1870 named Pinella, was extended twice, first in 1863 according to the designs of District Architect Th. P. Chiewitz and later in 1870.

For the refreshment of the citizens

The Cathedral Bridge is constructed.

The remodelling projects were designed by gardener Oskar Rudolf Gezeliuksen. In 1885, Pinella remodelled the Cathedral Park and Porthan Park from 1885 to 1887. The parks would later be known by those names. A mineral water kiosk was constructed in the early 1880s, but it never reached the level of popularity that Pinella had. The design of the gravel square where Brahe's statue was located attracted criticism, and even the surroundings of the Porthan Monument with its iron fence was deemed outdated and not matching the aesthetics of the time, which included decorative flower beds accentuated with exotic agaves and palm trees. Mauritz Hammarberg was named the City Gardener, and he immediately began redesigning Brakte Park. According to the plan drawn up in 1899, the diagonal central pathway of the park was to be expanded and the statue was to be encircled with a flowerbed, which extended along both sides of the pathway, accentuating the statue. The flowerbeds were accompanied by two Amur cork trees donated by factory owner Vilén. The wide pathway facing Porthan's statue was lined with linden trees and a round square was designed at the centre for a fountain. The fountain was never made. In 1910, a miniature model designed by the artist Axel Haartman and representing the area around Porthan's statue was remodelled and unveiled in 1914 for the 200th anniversary of Porthan's death. The iron fence was taken down and replaced with a flower bed with a flower medallion. The Cathedral Park was remodelled according to the design created by city gardener Harald Söderberg in 1908. The area was opened directly towards the middle of the middle building. Sculptor Harri Kjerfve's Arrhenius Monument and the iron-themed sculpture "Xilos pyhän pyrstöjän korkkeneen" were revealed in 1970 in the Cathedral Park. European style Cathedral Park

The area around Porthan's statue was remodelled in 1904 for the memorial celebration of the 200th anniversary of Porthan's death. The iron fence was taken down and replaced with a flower bed. The Cathedral Park was remodelled according to the design created by city gardener Harald Söderberg in 1908. The area was opened directly towards the middle of the middle building. Sculptor Harri Kjerfve's Arrhenius Monument and the iron-themed sculpture "Xilos pyhän pyrstöjän korkkeneen" were revealed in 1970 in the Cathedral Park.

The plan for Brahe Park, designed by City Gardener Hammarberg in 1899, expanded the park and implemented skillfully created flower beds around the statue. In 1930, a miniature model of historic Turku was placed at a location originally designed for a fountain. The kiosk in the top right corner of the park was built in the early 1880s. Image by TKA.

The remodelled Cathedral Park in 2005. Image by TMK.

The Cathedral Park was remodelled in the turn of the 1910s according to City Gardener Hammarberg's plan. Small plantations were installed in front of the Sage House Jeltti, and an axial pathway was made towards the building. Image by TKA.

The dock of the fishing harbour is opened. Image by TKA.

The park pavilion, built by Niilo Henrik Pinellö is opened.

The tree planting project is completed in 1890. The area around the fountain of Choreus. Common lindens imported from Germany are planted along the Aura River between the Cathedral Bridge and Aura Bridge.

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The three parks of Nicholas Square have gone through many transitions in their lifetime. The historical parks where gentlemen and ladies sauntered elegantly along the gravel pathways, stopping by Pinella for a refreshing glass of mineral water, have evolved into an oasis of peace and quiet. Even though Pinella was once known by these names, a mineral water kiosk was constructed in the early 1880s, but it never reached the level of popularity that Pinella had. The design of the gravel square where Brahe's statue was located attracted criticism, and even the surroundings of the Porthan Monument with its iron fence were deemed outdated and not matching the aesthetics of the time, which included decorative flower beds accentuated with exotic agaves and palm trees. Mauritz Hammarberg was named the City Gardener, and he immediately began redesigning Brakte Park. According to the plan drawn up in 1899, the diagonal central pathway of the park was to be expanded and the statue was to be encircled with a flowerbed, which extended along both sides of the pathway, accentuating the statue. The flowerbeds were accompanied by two Amur cork trees donated by factory owner Vilén. The wide pathway facing Porthan's statue was lined with linden trees and a round square was designed at the centre for a fountain. The fountain was never made. In 1910, a miniature model designed by the artist Axel Haartman and representing the area around Porthan's statue was remodelled and unveiled in 1914 for the 200th anniversary of Porthan's death. The iron fence was taken down and replaced with a flower medallion. The Cathedral Park was remodelled according to the design created by city gardener Harald Söderberg in 1908. The area was opened directly towards the middle of the middle building. Sculptor Harri Kjerfve's Arrhenius Monument and the iron-themed sculpture "Xilos pyhän pyrstöjän korkkeneen" were revealed in 1970 in the Cathedral Park.

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Tree planting begins in Kakolanmäki in the 1850s while other excavations have concentrated on the early periods of the city. The Centre of Turku has carried out archaeological excavations in the medieval city centre ever since the earliest years of settlement. The area between the Turku Cathedral and the Old Great Market was founded in the first years of Turku was founded in the first years of the 14th century. A layer of field was discovered under the urban layer. The excavations uncovered remains of stone and brick buildings from the vicinity of this street and the Old Great Market. Remains of buildings were excavated in the vicinity of the cathedral and next to restaurant Pinella. The excavations produced an extensive amount of new material and interpretations of the historic settlements. Excavations in the vicinity of the cathedral and next to restaurant Pinella provided new information on the history of the city and how the area was used before urban settlement. New plantations date back to the 18th century. New trees are being planted in Brahe Park, Porthan Park and Cathedral Park according to the plans of the Green Area Corporation. Archaeological excavations are also being carried out in the area. The Museum Centre of Turku began excavations in Brahe Park in 2008. Surveying was continued in Porthan Park, and Cathedral Park will be excavated in 2011. Digging the subsoil one metre deep was sufficient for planting the trees. The medieval layers are located even deeper in Brahe Park and Porthan Park.

The excavations did, however, discover post-medieval urban layers mostly dating back to the 18th century. The excavations revealed courtyards and remains of buildings and streets. Some of the buildings were wooden, while others were stone and brick structures. The stone and brick structures had occasionally been extended, containing sections dating to different ages. Some of the buildings had been occupied for a long period of time. Among these structures was a brick building discovered in the Brahe Park, located along the old street of Kirkkokatu, which displayed a masonry technique similar to the Monk bond. The building dated back to the Middle Ages or 16th century.The ancient street of Kirkkokatu ran from the cathedral to the Great Market. The street surface was made of many passes during the excavations. Remains of structures were found along the street, which also contained well-preserved pavement from the 18th century. An excavation carried out two years ago in the vicinity of the cathedral revealed that Kirkkokatu was first paved as early as the 16th century. The street had previously been paved with wood, and in its original form, Kirkkokatu of 16th century was an earthen street. The street of Kroopinkatu, which used to cross Kirkkokatu at the current location of the Brahe Park, was not as well preserved. Kroopinkatu stretched from the Mäntäjärvi to the shore of the Aura. The street was named after a drain called “Krooppa”, which ran from Mäntäjärvi to the Aura. Mäntäjärvi was located a few hundred metres south-east of the cathedral. The lake no longer exists. Uusikatu, or Iso Kirkkokatu, street also used to run from the cathedral to the Great Market. It was built in latter half of the 17th century and it was located to the east of the medieval Kirkkokatu. The excavations uncovered remains of stone buildings from the vicinity of this street and along the Great Market as well.

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Originally, Nicholas Square was designed to be business. A kiosk enters the Cathedral Park constructed between the church and the river. In the early days of Finland's independence, all references to the names of Russian emperors and Governor Generals were erased from the nomenclature. Nicholas Square was divided into sections: Gräfenlinna, Roothslinna, Tuomiokirkonkatu, Cathedral Square and Old Great Market. The name of Brage Bridge was revived as late as in 1953 (from Brahepunosto to Brahepunisto).

The commercial center began to be established on the western side of the city in the latter part of the 19th century with the development of retail trade. The merchant mansions around the Turku Cathedral were assigned to the newly founded Åbo Aukasen during the first decade of the 20th century. The University of Turku moved from the Market Square to Väinölammi in the 1950s. The appearance of the parks was characterized by the Police Department, the elementary school dental clinic, the city offices, the tobacco factory and the growing universities all the way to the 1970s. As the police force and the social services grew out of their old facilities, the fate of the buildings became an issue once more. It was an opportunity to time to establish a cultural centre in the vicinity of the Old Great Market. The development of the cultural centre began in 1986. It was decided to provide the citizens with an open and historically valuable environment. The most significant decision was to preserve the old architecture of the area in order to balance the changes that have taken place in the city centre.

The entire city plan was revised a few times, the last of which took place in 1897. The revision was extended by comprehensive measures. The map from 1894 includes the markings of the new plan, parks according to the plans and the names of the area in three languages.

Plantations, public parks and the placement of public monuments within parks were innovative ideas in European city planning, stemming from classicism and the Enlightenment. The citizens of Turku were well aware of the trends. For example, the citizens demanded a block of new buildings located between the Turku Cathedral and the river to be removed from Engel's city plan. Although the fire safety was a solid argument for the augmentation, in the 19th century there were fears to remove buildings surrounding Gothic churches. The aesthetic reasons behind the trend were also undeniable.

From the Great Fire to a new city plan

The Old Turku was a labyrinthine miasm, which would undoubtedly make a very attractive tourist spot today. Fires were a common occurrence in old cities, but on the 29th September 1827, abnormally dangerous circumstances resulted in the most devastating urban fire in the history of Scandinavia.

Cari Ludvig Engel was given the responsibility to design new city plan. Engel placed the main square of the city on the west side of the river, where the Market Square currently resides. The areas between the Turku Cathedral and the Old Great Market, the central historic Turku, did not appear in Engel’s design as a park, although it was essential as a counter to the fire. In the new city plan, the area of Nicholas Square, also known as Great Market, had been divided into two large squares surrounding Udvenamarknad.

The Market was extended further south, all the way to the Old Academy Building, deviating from the original plan. This expansion took place during a plot transaction between weightmaster Johan Christian Trapp and merchant Pehr Petter Cajander from 1829 to 1830. The facades of the buildings faced Nicholas Square, in line with the historic tâmets. The purpose was to “beautify the city in fundamental way.”

Despite Engel’s designs, the area surrounding Nicholas Square developed into the centre of the city. The area remained as the administrative centre of the city, and as the preferred location of the wealthiest merchants. The paved areas also served as market places. City Architect Per Gehr led the first alteration to Engel’s city plan in 1835. The amendment related to the arrangement and plantation of the trees of Nicholas Square. The revised delineation of the parks and pathway design is completely different from the original park design, which was done earlier in the year.

According to the building code, only stone buildings were allowed to be built around the squares and the main streets. However, this stone city regulation was only enforced in the vicinity of the cathedral and on the section of Rantakatu between the Aura Bridge and the Cathedral Bridge.

The Old Great Market was paved with cobblestone. The idea was to bring out the square shape of the Great Fire by revealing its eastern edge that had been covered by the Porthan Park. The edge of the square is marked by Kaar Tapper’s spatial artwork “Ajan virta”.

The entire grid of the city plan is redesigned for the last time. The names of the parks of Nicholas Square are established in the city plan.

Cityscape takes shape

Through different stages of the park designs, the plantations of Nicholas Square evolved into urban parks. Engel’s city plan was completely redesigned in 1897. The area is depicted according to the plans on the city map. At the time, the area was still known as Nicholas Square. Then, the parks were named Brage Park, Porthan Park and Cathedral Park on the shore of the Aura River. In the early days of Finland’s independence, all references to the names of Russian emperors and Governor Generals were erased from the nomenclature. Nicholas Square was divided into sections: Gräfenlinna, Roothslinna, Tuomiokirkonkatu, Cathedral Square and Old Great Market. The name of Brage Bridge was revived as late as in 1953 (from Brahepunosto to Brahepunisto).

The commercial center began to be established on the western side of the city in the latter part of the 19th century with the development of retail trade. The merchant mansions around the Turku Cathedral were assigned to the newly founded Åbo Aukasen during the first decade of the 20th century. The University of Turku moved from the Market Square to Väinölammi in the 1950s. The appearance of the parks was characterized by the Police Department, the elementary school dental clinic, the city offices, the tobacco factory and the growing universities all the way to the 1970s. As the police force and the social services grew out of their old facilities, the fate of the buildings became an issue once more. It was an opportunity to time to establish a cultural centre in the vicinity of the Old Great Market. The development of the cultural centre began in 1986. It was decided to provide the citizens with an open and historically valuable environment. The most significant decision was to preserve the old architecture of the area in order to balance the changes that have taken place in the city centre.

From parks to national landscape

The Old Great Market was paved with cobblestone. 1938. The idea was to bring out the shape of the square and had before the Great Fire by revealing its eastern edge that had been covered by the Porthan Park. The edge of the square is marked by Kaar Tapper’s spatial artwork “Ajan virta”.

The entire city plan was revised a few times, the last of which took place in 1897. The revision was extended by comprehensive measures. The map from 1894 includes the markings of the new plan, parks according to the plans and the names of the area in three languages.

The three bridges are required to manage the traffic between the two sides of the city, which is divided by the river, and we have also constructed eight large, spacious markets and squares, all for benefit of the citizens, land and sea trade and for improved air circulation, which is good for public health.

C.L. Engel on the city plan

The merchants and the rows of trees surrounding the former Nicholas Square exemplify Empire aesthetics, while the parks represent the ideals of the 19th century parks. The area is a nationally significant, constructed cultural landscape that is an essential part of Finland’s national landscape. An area that is a key part of the plans for improving the human-friendliness of the city centre. The new light traffic bridge that will be located between the new and the old city centre is an essential part of the city’s development. However, the bridge will not be built at the site of the historic bridge that used to be located at the Great Market. The location of the bridge was reassessed from a cityscape and a functional standpoint. Because the operational centre of the city has grown strong roots on the west side of the city, it was agreed that the most appropriate location for the bridge was at the end of Kauppakatu, so that the bridge would be visible from the Market Square. The area is to become the light traffic network while attracting city dwellers and tourists to the riverbanks and parks of the Aura River.

A tourist map from 1893 depicting the new construction and environmental values of the city.
RENEWAL OF THE TREES
of the Old Great Market and the Cathedral Square

Brahe, Porthan and the Cathedral Park located in the area of the historic Old Great Market and Cathedral Square are the most valuable urban parks of Turku. The park trees are among the oldest trees of Turku. The parks have gone through many changes throughout their history. Subsequently, the original designs and aesthetics have changed along with the changes made to the parks. The development has also involved the trees.

The removal of the trees in Brahe Park began on 21.2.2008. Aerial lifts were utilised during the work.

The oldest trees of the park date back to the 1830s. The number of wood-decaying fungi has increased significantly due to the aging and poor overall condition of the trees. Decaying problems are mostly related to Wych elms. It can be generalized that during the last 20 years the most valuable elms of the area have succumbed to decay caused by Hymenoscyphus albidus. This relatively new and previously rather unknown wood-decaying fungi has spread rapidly. This aggressive variety of fungus has required extensive pruning in many of the trees, sometimes even requiring the removal of an entire tree. Typically, the fungus makes the wood rotten, decays the crowns and larger stems of trees.

Another typical wood-decay fungus occurring in elms is Polyporus squamosus, which decays trees at a much slower pace. The fungus has invaded the trees around the Old Great Market for several decades already. Polyporus squamosus decays the boughs and the main trunks of elms, often at the height of several meters. The fungus Rigidoporus populneus, typically occurring in Norway maples, has also infected the maple trees of the area. Other trees have been infected by Laetiporus sulphureus as well as various species of Pholiota. In terms of the condition of the trees, the state of the Cathedral Park was the least critical. The contributing factors to the healthy state of the park were the small proportion of elms and, respectively, the diversity of the tree species in the park.

A renewal and supplementation plan was drawn up for Brahe, Porthan and Cathedral Park in 2007, which is currently being implemented. The plan was not only to remove the trees but to recreate the historical and architecturally unique appearance of the parks.

Main principles of removing the tree stand

The tree stand of the old parks can be renewed in a number of ways. The most common methods are renewing trees in rows, groups of trees or single trees. Each method has its advantages and challenges. The ecological and cultural historic values of three are often equated with landscapes. Usually the removal of trees is successful if there is enough water, nutrients, space for growth and light for the new trees.

All of the above mentioned methods were used in the area of the Old Great Market and the Cathedral Square. The old design of the parks, the current general plan and the conservation of the city plan were preserved. The idea was to preserve the original style and spirit of the plantations. The plan was also to process the current tree stand as units while respecting ecological principles. It was deemed essential to retain as many old trees as possible.

Selecting new tree species

The future species of the area are also being determined while planning the new plantations. This requires focusing on the longterm future of the area. All selections of species were based on the current tree stand. At the time of the decision, the stand of 148 trees consisted mostly of Wych elms (50 trees), Common lindens (45 trees) and Norway maples (24 trees). The other 24 trees included various other species. The main reason behind the removal of the trees was problems related to the elms. The three most common tree species accounted for approximately 83% of all trees. This meant that the species of the area had to be significantly diversified.

Today the use of Wych elms in great quantities is reconsidered today. This is because a significant threat to elms posed by the Dutch Elm Disease (Platynoumena chlorides) is extremely dangerous for example, in areas around Stockholm. Planting elms into parks requires caution. While the tree selection were being planned, Ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus), which is dangerous to ashes, arrived in Finland. Numerous plantation areas had been reserved for Common ash, which is native to southwestern Finland. However, the arrival of the new decaying fungus required changing the species.

The experiences and current requirements led to a decision to expand the diversity of the parks in a moderate way. The move ensured the ecological sustainability of the area and a more luxuriant character for the tree stand. According to the criteria, the new species had to be of large trees with a dark trunk, green crown and a long lifespan. Some of the traditional species were supplemented with species more suitable for being supplementary trees. Some of the species are native to the area or their history is somehow related to Turku. The silver maple, for example, is a part of the history of Turku because of Pehr Kalm.

Brahe Park

Brahe Park’s trees were originally designed to form rows along the edges and the pathways of the park. Despite the seemingly free form, the trees are guided by the shapes of the edges and the pathways of the park. Trees lining the edges and the inner pathways of the park have disappeared and lost their architectural significance. Some trees had even been planted contrary to the original design. Many trees were missing, revealing holes in the design of the area. The removal of the trees and the restoration of the original design was the main objective of renewing Brahe Park.

The central part of the Brahe Park has an arch, which was the edge of the park prior to its expansion. The arch dates back to 1835. One of the key objectives was to restore this historical design. Two large elms remaining from the original motif were to be retained as memorial trees. Despite the presence of wood-decaying fungi, the trees can be maintained because of their shape. Beech was chosen as a new species, as it is believed to be able to thrive in the area. The use of a new species will further enhance the arch’s design.

The row of trees on the opposite side of Cathedral Square was supplemented with new trees. The original trees date back to 1888. Previous removals were replaced with new Wych elms and Norway maples. The edge rows next to the main avenue were replaced with new Common lindens and maples.

New trees were planted along the pathway leading to Brahe’s statue in order to supplement the row. Only three of the old lindens could be retained. The new trees were of several different species, thus the row was renewed according to the original design. The lawn area next to the sidewalk became home to a group of silver maples.

The old linden (from 1800) leading towards Porthan Park turned out to be in a moderately good condition. These trees will be maintained according to the normal procedures. New trees were planted in the vicinity of the path in order to diversify the rows. Some young Wych elms were removed from the adjacent lawn area, because they were deviating from the original form. They were replaced by a Caucasian wing nut, adding a beautiful detail to the scene.

The trees in the area surrounding Brahe’s statue did not require any special measures, because they are fairly young and in good condition. The management of the historically valuable Amur cork trees are essential. This time-defining, old tree dating back to 1896 is the only tree left of factory owner Wilen’s original donation. Returning the Amur cork trees to the area was considered a very important objective.

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Nicholas Square

The original trees of Nicholas Square focused on the edges of the park along Uudenmaankatu, the Old Great Market and Raitio Rantakatu. Most of the tree stand had been planted in 1835, although the trees had received additions during the remodelling in 1885 and 1900. Pinellonpolku and Henrik Tempilin polku had also been lined with regular rows of trees. The lawn areas lined by the pathways were planted with lining trees and flowering shrub species.

During the past decades, the trees planted on the edges of the park in particular had become scattered and lost their original shapes. Many trees were missing, revealing holes in various parts of the park. Indeed, removing these defining rows of trees was one of the key objectives of the renewal of Porthan Park. Some of the old trees along the edges were in a fairly good condition. This is why some of the new plantations were designed to complete the final unification of the rows in the near future. The exact locations and species of the new trees were, however, defined exactly.

The row of trees lining the Old Great Market had previously been remodelled during the installation of Kais Tapper’s “Ajan vurta” artwork. This modification had been carried out in 2000. The edge of the Old Great Market was unified with a row of trees that was to be renewed in several stages. The Common linden was the chosen species. All of the other rows of trees in Porthan Park were designed to contain multiple species. The rows lining the park were supplemented with Norway maples and Common linden.

Designing the trees along the pathways cutting through the park proved challenging. The aim was to respect the original design while protecting the old trees. The solution was to place new trees in significant holes in the rows and spots where trees had been previously removed. The new tree designs were more free form due to the large size of the crowns of the older trees. The new tree stand was designed to be planted in groups and individually. The aim was also to diversify the tree stand. The original arch of trees motif was supplemented with a new Wych elm. In future, the arch will also include a horse chestnut. This tree is part of a formation along Pinellonpolku, where horse chestnut was planted also nearby the Old Great Market and Uudenmaankatu. The original species of the park also included horse chestnuts. An arch was planted in the lawn adjacent to the arch motif. Silver maples were planted along the borders of the square surrounding Porthan’s statue and along Pinellonpolku.

A new group of trees replaced an elm removed at the end of Henrik Tempilin polku, next to Uudenmaankatu. The removal of the decayed elm enabled a much larger group of trees to be planted together. The new group included Green ash trees and Common lindens. The extensive renovations of restaurant Pinella required changes to the renewal plan of the adjacent trees. The underground expansion of the restaurant meant that some of the older trees in front of the building had to be removed. The restaurant activity also required changes in the area between Pinella and Uudenmaankatu. The large elm growing in the area was protected and preserved as well as possible. The green area in front of the street was supplemented with new trees and bushes.

Cathedral Park

According to the original plan, the tree stand of Cathedral Park has been designed as a row on the edge of the Cathedral Square, along Gezeliuksenkatu and in rows towards the dock on the Aura River bank, and the Savo House. Most of the tree stand dates back to 1835. The other trees of the park have been planted more at random with some variations to the park. The tree stand represents various periods of plantations dating back to 1835, 1866, 1911 and 2000.

During the past decades, many trees have been removed. In particular, many trees have had to be removed from Gezeliuksenkatu, Sive’s alley and in the vicinity of the dock. This has also resulted in the loss of the park’s original architectural design. The renewal aimed at restoring the original design and renewing the rows of trees as well as possible.

The rows of trees bordering Cathedral Square is still in an edge to edge configuration. Its visual appearance is quite good. The row of maples at the end of Gezeliuksenkatu has already been previously supplemented. The row was further renewed with three new maples. The self-propagated trees from the end of the street were replaced with oaks. The tree was designed to provide a beautiful addition to the scene in future.

The allée leading to the Säve House with its diverse tree stand is vital to the design of the park. Originally, the path has been created to cultivate the growth of new trees. The path has previously been supplemented. The row was further renewed with three new maples. The allée has been designed to provide a beautiful addition to the scene in future.

The new trees were planted very carefully. Each tree was propped up with four pole staking technique. A cork tree (Phellodendron amurense) is being planted in the picture taken on 11.8.2009.

The new trees are planted with lining trees and flowering shrub species.

The path leading towards the dock used to be lined with trees, both below and above the retaining wall. The row of trees above the retaining wall was very dense, and old photographic evidence indicates that the tree stand was not filling. Today, only a few trees remain of the row. The tree stand was supplemented with silver maples in a relatively free form design. The row of trees below the path was extended with maples and lindens.

The recreational area of Cathedral Park offers an impressive view towards the Cathedral Bridge and Linnanmäki Park. The current tree stand was retained in order to preserve the beautiful view, and therefore the maples above the retaining wall were not replanted. One previously removed Wych elm was replaced with a Cercidiphyllum japonicum. A pair for the tree had previously been planted in Linnanmäki Park.

Substrates and planting

Large substrates were constructed for all new trees for the purpose of ensuring the best possible conditions for growth. New trees were either planted in separate or shared substrates. The individual substrates were approximately 4 to 5 meters wide and 1 meter deep. Larger substrates were prepared for groups of trees and row designs.

The substrate excavations were filled with 50 centimetres of soil excavated from the park, thus recycling the soil. The purpose of the soil is to structurally support the substrate, enable the roots to grow deeper and to bind gravitational and capillary water. The top 30 cm layer was filled with artificial soil produced by the Green Area Corporation. The purpose of the soil is to cultivate the growth of new trees.

The new plants were acquired from both the city’s own nursery and from commercial nurseries. Only the best quality plants were selected for the project. The plantation was carried out extremely carefully. Correct planting depth and root management were particularly emphasised. The planted trees were staked with four stakes. After the plantation, the trees were carefully watered. All trees have exhibited solid growth.

The name “Nicholas Square” is removed from the nomenclature and replaced by individual names for the areas. Gezeliuksenkatu, Raisiohjaehrityskatu, Taasivuorenkatu, Cathedral Square and Old Great Market.

The miniature model of Viktoria Turku is moved to the cathedral.

1835 The public service centre and a part of the porticoes are transformed into a petrol station.
1924 The Mannerheim Park is founded.
1936 The proclamation of Christmas Peace begins in Turku.
1917 The Helsinki Diet and the new independent state.
1919 The University of Turku is founded.
1920 Mannerheim Park is constructed.
1926 Nicholas Square is founded.
1891 The Old Academy is founded.
1945 Helminen is appointed as City Gardener.
1919 Aarno Mauri Hellemaa is appointed as City Gardener.
1924 The Taito and Inkeri squares of Kaupunkienvaeltajat are planted.
1930 The name of Yrjänänpuisto is changed.
1935 The public service centre and a part of the porticoes are transformed into a petrol station.
1936 The allée leading to the Savo House is extended with maples and lindens.


The new trees were planted very carefully. Each tree was propped up with four pole staking technique. A cork tree (Phellodendron amurense) is being planted in the picture taken on 11.8.2009.

Building the substrate for the trees was preceded by extensive archaeological excavations. New substrate pits were dug for the trees forming the arch design of Brahe Park. The original Wych elms dated back to 1835. The trees had been planted on top of historic structures.
Renewal of the trees of the Old Great Market and the Cathedral Square
Coordinator: Aki Männistö / control group
Coordinating assistant: Raija Turtola
24 March 2011 / 20 November 2007

A total of 24 trees were removed from Brahe, Porthan and Cathedral Park.

Additional 4 trees were removed due to the construction of restaurant Pinella.

69 new trees were planted in the parks:

- 18 Maple (Acer platanoides)
- 9 Silver maple (Acer saccharinum)
- 9 Common linden (Tilia x vulgaris)
- 9 Beech (Fagus sylvatica f. f. Gottschna)
- 9 Wych elm (Ulmus glabra)
- 4 Red ash (Fraxinus pensylvanica)
- 3 Horse chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)
- 2 Oak (Quercus robur)
- 2 Horse chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)
- 2 Caucasian wing nut (Pterocarya fraxinifolia)

Turku was selected as the 2011 European City of Trees.

The title is an honorary appointment designated by the European Arboricultural Council.
The Arvidsson Monument (Hans Ekenäl) and the swan statue (Jussi Mäntynen) are erected in Cathedral Park.

1973
Barkerinpuisto is constructed.

1976
A restaurant with a terrace is opened in place of the portico and former public convenience.

1978
Lauri Laine is appointed as City Gardener.

1980
The Old Great Market work group is founded for the development of the cultural centre.

1991
Lauri Laine is appointed as City Gardener.

1996
The Old Great Market is paved with cobble.

1998
The Old Great Market is paved with cobble.

2000
Ajan virta by Kaisa Tapper is installed on the eastern edge of the Old Great Market.

2002
Pinella and the portico close doors.

2006
The tree renewal work group begins its work.

2011
Lauri Laine is appointed as City Gardener.

2016
The renewed Pinella reopens for business. The tree renewal project is completed.

2011
The tree renewal project is completed.

2011
Pinella and the portico close doors.

2011
The renewed Pinella reopens for business.

2011
Pass-through traffic in Cathedral Square ends.

2011
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